

Message Text

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ACTION VOE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 ARA-10 /012 W
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R 091817Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7664

UNCLAS PARIS 04000

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, AFSP, SREF

SUBJECT: VISA OFFICER SHORTFALL

REF: 75 PARIS 34008, 75 PARIS 33625

1. EMBASSY PLEASED TO REPORT THAT ITS EFFORT TO ABSORB THE IMPACT OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROGRAM THROUGH ADOPTION OF PROCEDURAL CHANGES (PARIS 34008) APPEARS TO BE BEARING FRUIT. AT SAME TIME, PROJECTIONS BASED ON FIRST (OCT.-DEC.) QUARTER STATISTICS WHICH INDICATED A RECORD-BREAKING FISCAL YEAR NIV WORKLOAD OF 105-110,000 ARE NOT FULLY BORNE OUT BY PRELIMINARY STATISTICS FOR MONTH OF JANUARY.

2. EMBASSY DOES NOT (AS IT FEARED IT MIGHT TWO MONTHS AGO) REQUIRE THE SERVICES OF AN ADDITIONAL FULLTIME CONSULAR OFFICER AT THIS TIME. NONETHELESS, THE PARIS VISA OFFICE FACES THE CERTAIN PROSPECT OF SERIOUS CONSULAR OFFICER SHORTFALL DURING THE SUMMER (MAY-AUGUST) MONTHS WHEN IT TRADITIONALLY CONDUCTS TWO-THIRDS OF ITS ANNUAL NIV BUSINESS.

3. THE SHORTFALL IS DUE TO THE FORTHCOMING ELIMINATION IN APRIL OF A JUNIOR OFFICER ROTATIONAL POSITION WHOSE NEW INCUMBENT COULD HAVE PROVIDED THE EMBASSY'S VISA OPERATION WITH SUMMER TDY ASSISTANCE. FURTHERMORE, THIS SHORTFALL (920 HOURS: SEE EMBASSY'S A-204 OF APRIL 29, 1975) CANNOT THIS YEAR BE MADE UP BY THE DIVERSION OF OTHER CONSULAR OFFICERS INTO NIV WORK BECAUSE THE REFU-
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GEE PROGRAM STILL FULLY ABSORBS THE ENERGIES OF THE MOST

LIKELY CANDIDATES FOR SUCH A ROLE.

4. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE EMBASSY FEELS COMPELLED TO REQUEST TDY ASSIGNMENT OF A CONSULAR OFFICER TO ITS VISA STAFF FOR THE MAY-AUGUST PERIOD.

5. WE WILL CONTINUE TO CLOSELY MONITOR OUR VISA WORKLOAD WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING DATA TO ASCERTAIN BETTER THAN WE CAN AT PRESENT WHETHER THERE IS A PERMANENT UPWARD TREND OF SUCH A MAGNITUDE AS TO REQUIRE THAT TDY POSITION REQUESTED ABOVE BE EVENTUALLY CONVERTED TO A PERMANENT ONE.

RUSH

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